



# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***USDA Energy Conference Scheduled***

***Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Information To Be Presented***

**Topeka, KS** – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks today announced that the Agency will be presenting its fourth annual Kansas USDA Energy Conference on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> at Kansas State University in Manhattan. The energy conference will focus on federal programs that can assist agricultural producers, business owners, local governments, school districts, rural housing interests and energy contractors.

In announcing the upcoming Kansas USDA Energy Conference, State Director Banks commented, "Advancing both renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities for Kansas is critical for expanding economic development for the Sunflower State. The Conference will provide important federal energy assistance information and how these programs can benefit Kansas. USDA Rural Development is committed, through the Agency's programs and its extensive network of partners, to help Kansans achieve their important economic and community development goals."

The Kansas USDA Energy Conference will address the key points of USDA's *Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Program* (Section 9006), covering both the 2007 Program's details and application process. The Conference will also provide attendees information about other federal energy programs, along with presentations from leaders in rural renewable energy efforts.

The Kansas USDA Energy Conference details follow:

**Kansas State University / Student Union**, Manhattan, KS.

**January 30, 2007 (Day #1):** 9:00a.m. – 4:45 p.m., Registration will begin at 8:00 a.m.

**January 31, 2007 (Day #2):** 8:00a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m.

Day #1 will consist of general renewable energy and energy efficiency presentations. Day #2 will consist of breakout sessions split between the following interest groups: 1] agricultural producers; 2] business owners; 3] public bodies (counties, municipalities, school districts, etc.); and 4] rural housing interests. Space is limited, individuals should register in advance at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks) or call 785-271-2701. Additional USDA Rural Development energy program information is available through the Agency at 785-271-2744.

In his remarks announcing the Conference, Banks further stated, "It is especially important that we expand renewable energy projects and improve the efficiency of current systems as we strive to make the United States more energy independent. These efforts help protect the economic security of our Nation. Federal funding is available for eligible Kansans to establish new renewable energy systems or make energy efficiency improvements."

Under USDA's *Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Program*, the maximum amount of a loan guarantee made to a borrower is \$10 million. For renewable energy systems, the minimum grant request is \$2,500 and the maximum is \$500,000. For energy efficiency improvements, the minimum grant request is \$1,500 and the maximum is \$250,000.

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USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that support increasing economic opportunity and improving the quality of life of the State's rural residents. The Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. During Fiscal Year 2006, USDA Rural Development administered over \$257 million in financial assistance for community and economic development projects across rural Kansas.

***USDA Rural Development – Committed to the future of rural communities.***

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